

FROM THE BABYLON OF THE WEST

was more than ever necessary to strengthen their forces, for, unless his powers were utterly broken, they would never be able to extort a fitting peace from him. A few days later, the Signoria wrote to the Emperor, the King of Hungary, the Doge of Venice, and the Doge of Genoa, enclosing copies of the terms the Pope had offered, declaring that the conditions would be outrageous if the city had been subjected to a long siege, and the victor were already lording it within her walls. It was decided to confiscate and sell the goods of the churches for money to carry on the war.¹

" Alas, alas ! dearest brother," wrote Catherine to Buonaccorso di Lapo Giovanni, " I am grieved at the methods that have been adopted in asking peace from the most holy Father ; for there has been a show of words rather than of deeds. I say this because, when I came thither to you and to your lords, they showed in their words that they were repentant for the fault committed, and it seemed that they would humble themselves and crave mercy from the Holy Father; for when I said to them : ' See, my lords, if you really intend to use all humility in deed as well as word, and that I should offer you up to your father like sons that were dead, I will labour in this to the utmost of your wish. In no other wise would I go'; they answered me that they were content. Alas, alas ! dearest brothers, this was the way and the gate by which it befitted you to enter ; and there is no other; and if you had followed this way in deed as in your words, you would have had the most glorious peace that ever any one had. I say not this without cause, for I know what the disposition of the Holy Father was like ; but since we began to leave that way, following the astute methods of the world, carrying into effect something quite different from what was first professed by word, the Holy Father has been given grounds, not for peace, but for more anger. For when your ambassadors came here, they did not adopt the fitting method which the servants of

¹ Gherardi, *op. cit.*, documents 304-307 (Sept. 23 to Sept. 28, 1376) ; *Diario (FAnommo Florentine)*, p. 323, where the Pope is represented as saying : "O io io disfar6 al tutto Firenze, o Firenze disfarebbe la santa Chiesa."